



Charles A. Woodford
American Legion Post 2007



February 27, 2023

Meeting was called to order at 1905 hours by the Commander.

Roll of Post officers was called with all officers and Executive Committee members.

The Sgt at Arms stated there were no guests in attendance.

January 2023 meeting minutes were read with motion to accept by Steve Duff and seconded by Doug Jameson. Minutes approved by membership.

The **Membership Report** was given showing the Post at 94.7% with 142 out of 150 members registered. The Commander stated our numbers have improved due to Bill Martin assigning unassigned members to the post.

The **Finance Officer** provided a breakdown of the post's accounts with \$3,209.19 in Savings and \$7,039.73 in Checking for a total of \$10,248.92 including \$2,281 set aside for the various programs. There is still an outstanding check for \$298 for poppies. Motioned to accept, subject to audit by Rich Gaebel, seconded by Howard Bateman. Membership approved.

Poppies –The machine that makes the poppies is still broken, however parts to repair it have been received by the Division. The Department has zero poppies on hand, but they are taking orders. Steve Duff asked about sourcing poppies from other sources. The Commander stated that most posts did not have the additional inventory needed to provide poppies to other posts.

Veteran Affairs – The next meeting of the St. Clair VAC will be February 28th at 7 p.m. They will have a guest speaker from HealthVisions Midwest. They will also be voting on bylaws. The Commander stated that he would be the primary representative at the meetings, but he needed an alternative.

Community Patriotic Observances – No report

Honor Guard – Rich Gaebel stated his team needs to start working towards learning rifle ceremonies. Steve Duff mentioned funerals he has attended had a flag folding ceremony. Rich explained his vision on how the team would operate. Rich plans on contacting area funeral homes to inform them of the team's availability once the team is ready.

Americanism – No Report

Boy Scouts – The Commander said the deadline for applications to the Department was March 1st. So far, no applications have been received.

Constitution and By Laws – No Report

Gifts to the Yanks – Jennifer stated that they were sticking with just the homes in Swansea rather than expanding to other area homes.

Children and Youth – No report

Oratorical – The Commander attended the Department contest the previous Saturday. The 5th Division did not win. The winners did very well.

Boys State – The Commander has the paperwork, but we still need to find a boy to sponsor.

Rehabilitation – No Report

Employment - No Report

Post Service Officer Report – No Report

Other Committees – No Report

Sick Call – Bill Martin's mother has passed.

Unfinished Business

1. Ceremonial Weapons – All four weapons have been cleaned. We will start the process to fire the weapons and get them back into the possession of the VFW. We will coordinate with the Swansea Police Department to practice firing drills.
2. Post Dinner – scheduled for April 24th. Doug Jameson and Andrew Dunham will co-chair the event.
3. Flag Retirement Ceremony – Bill Martin volunteered to chair the committee. We have around 300 flags to be retired. Local scout units have contacted us and are looking for an event to help us with. We need to work on a plan to get vets from the Assisted Living Centers out and possible have food available for our guests.
4. A check was cut for Hannah for her Flag collection box project.

New Business

1. Elections – Nominations will be presented from the floor at the April meeting. Nominations will be accepted at the May meeting followed by the actual election.
2. Homestead Act – Howard Bateman notified the Commander about letters about 100 vets were receiving stating they would lose their Homestead exemption due to their DD Form 214 showing something other than Honorable. Vets will need to get their discharge upgraded in order to be eligible again. If they can get the upgrade, they will need to reapply. The County has stated it will not collect back taxes. Steve Duff asked about surviving spouses. They will need to contact Steve Daesch for help at the Vet Center. Steve also suggested an email be sent to the membership informing them about the change and to notify us if anyone is affected or if they know someone one who is.

Memorial to Departed Members – No known departed members.

For the Good of the Legion

1. Steve Duff related that he presented the Eagles to the Wolfbranch School. The school plans on designing and installing a display case in a well-travelled hallway. Once this is done, we will have a formal presentation at the school.
2. Steve Duff spoke about the Republican Party Lincoln Gala that was recently held. He borrowed the POW/MIA banner and set up a POW/MIA table at the event. The O'Fallon VFW allowed him to borrow six flags for the display. Belleville East's Color Guard did a great job with the flag ceremony. He said they had a Hungarian immigrant speak at the event about their time living under Communist rule.
3. Post 58 was having a clean-up day on March 18th. Our Post has two events that same day.
4. The Commander has tickets for Pam Ray fundraiser available.
5. The Commander reemphasized membership.

50/50 Results – won by Andrew Dunham, who donated it back to the Honor Guard fund. Total amount \$52

Next Meeting to be held on March 27th at 7PM

Meeting adjourned at 2013 hours